

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Commission on Sustainability Transportation Group Meeting Report</b></p>
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**Date: June 17, 2008**

**Subject: Transportation Group Listening Session #1**

**In Attendance:**

Inez Robb  
Alan Ghen  
Barry Childress  
Brenda Paige  
Roberta Jackson  
David Shapiro  
Daniel Macdonald  
Dwight Pinkney  
Monique Ellis  
Monica Meade  
Chris Domey  
Mark Counselman  
Yolanda Takesian  
Kirin Smith  
Dwight Pinkney  
Mark R. Brown  
Sarah Zaleski  
Scot Spencer  
Gabriel Gaines  
Danyell Diggs

**Discussion:** Discussion centered on ideas for the Transportation vision statement. General ideas were presented about what transportation should mean in Baltimore and how ped/bike/transit could be improved in the city. Most participants agreed the vision statement should focus on inclusiveness, fairness, and multi-modal options.

**Topics addressed:**

- Introductions
- Overview of sustainability plan and process (see related PowerPoint)
- Discussion of vision statement
  - Should hit all points – leave nothing out
  - Built bike lanes/quality transit and people will use it
  - Use common language everyone can understand
  - What does “diverse” mean? Explain further. This could be a description of transportation choices or socioeconomic status
  - Transportation views are changing due to economy, however, once gas prices go back down, transit/bike priority will diminish. Create a vision statement that incorporates a long-term lifestyle change – not just reactive to economic conditions.
  - Healthy cities = healthy people! Transportation is not an end, but rather a means for moving people and goods.
  - Vision statement should include quality of life issues. Does Baltimore’s transportation system make people happy? Sitting in traffic in your car vs. reading on a train. Don’t avoid touchy, feeling language

- “Easy and enjoyable for all”
- Need youth access to bicycles
- Connectivity is key – pedestrian/bike paths connecting residential areas to services.
- Traffic calming is major issue – bulb outs, medians, etc – environmental psychology to make roads safer for bikes/peds
- Use descriptive language vs. prescriptive.
- Attractive, not just bearable options.
- Movement of goods should be included
- Regional connections are important – not just Baltimore City
- Proposed vision statement by Richard Chambers – **“System that promotes ease of movement, public health, and general happiness”**
- Other relevant discussion
  - MTA one of last systems to get bike racks on buses. Coordination with MTA needed for Sustainability Plan.
  - Plan should think about tourists. Where do they park when visiting attractions? How can they get around more efficiently?
  - Toronto went from a car culture to a multi-modal culture. How did Toronto do it? May make a good case study.
  - Is parking too cheap in the city? Maybe driving should be actively discouraged. Portland raised parking rates around light rail stations.
  - Promote diversity and accessibility
  - Timelines are important. What good is transit if the first bus leaves after the start of work? Keep in mind audience of transit – should serve the most disadvantaged person
  - Keep in mind goods/freight movement. More freight on rails can make roads safer
  - MTA/city needs to prepare for increased transit use. Capacity and safety key.
  - City should educate kids and public on transit benefits (health, environment)
  - How can plan promote economic development? BDC should be involved.
  - Outreach for Sustainability Plan needs improvement. Current process is “Victorian” – can’t expect public to come to us – we must go to them. Take message to schools – kids need to be reached.
  - Send PDFs of meeting notices so members can print and distribute easily
  - Transit/Bicycle marriage – must work together
  - Police presence is needed on mass transit to create an atmosphere of safety.
  - Transportation section should touch on air quality – Baltimore area an ozone non-attainment area. Overlapping goals with Energy and Air workgroup
- Possible Survey Questions
  - Determine level of interest for car sharing
  - Why are people transit averse?
  - Pricing profiles - how much will people be willing to pay to ride?
  - Independent variables determining mode choice
  - Likes/dislikes about transportation in Baltimore
  - Use visual preference survey like Carroll County
  - Does your employer promote transportation alternatives?
  - Walkability of community
  - Separate survey for visitors?
  - Geographical analysis
  - Capacity of light rail/metro?
  - Determine proximity of services in people’s neighborhoods (deli, dry cleaner, etc)
  - What transit incentives are most valued?
  - Tolerance for tax increases?
  - Ability to skip sections in survey – let users pick and chose forms

**To Do:**

- Mark to send out draft vision statements for group comment
- Workgroup to revise vision statement options and present final copy to Sustainability Commission

**Upcoming Events:**